

Environmental Health & Safety

MONTHLY JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

October 2021



New Items

Welcoming the U of T community back to campus

Facilities & Services has been working diligently with our campus partners to implement many of the safety measures the University put in place to ensure a safe return to campus this Fall, including improved ventilation, building signage, and enhanced cleaning. <u>Learn more about how we've</u> <u>helped to prepare campus</u>.

COVID-19 Resources

<u>UTagether</u> is a one-stop hub of information on how the University is responding to the pandemic, as we work toward a <u>safe return</u> to our campuses in Fall 2021. <u>UTagether: A Roadmap for the University of Toronto</u> covers some important ways the University is promoting health and safety, advancing academic excellence and meeting the needs of our community as we navigate COVID-19. For all the latest information please check the <u>UTagether</u> and <u>Roadmap</u> websites.

The University of Toronto continually updates our <u>frequently asked</u> <u>questions</u> related to COVID-19 and our community.

Classroom Assessment Methodology

The collection of measurements of classroom ventilation rates has arisen in the context of building and equipment maintenance at a time when the University is actively engaged in reopening activities. In view of our awareness that our community has heightened health and safety concerns arising from COVID-19, the University is providing JHSCs and our community with more information and more access to information relating to building and equipment maintenance than would generally be provided. Page 1 of 3

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In the spirit of transparency at this challenging time, the University is providing the JHSCs and our community with classroom ventilation measurements (<u>Tri-Campus HVAC Strategy for Return to the University</u>). In addition, we have also added information regarding how measurements are attained and the methodology used (see below). The below collection methodology does not measure air quality but instead confirms the proper operation of building HVC systems.

JHSCs and our community members are welcomed to review this information. If JHSCs or any community member have any comments or questions on ventilation measurements including the measurement collection procedures, they are welcome to reach out to EHS to discuss or provide comments in writing.

Measurement collection method:

- 1. An electronic velometer with a capture hood is placed over an air diffuser.
- 2. As air exists the diffuser information on air flow information is collected by the velometer.
- 3. In addition to measurements at the diffusers, when diffusers were not accessible, the air measurement was taken at the duct branch serving multiple diffusers in the same room using different process pitot tube not the hood.
- 4. We also measured minimum outside air % at the air handling units, as that is going into calculation of equivalent ACH.

EHS COVID-19 Audits

EHS will be performing regular audits in coordination with scheduled JHSC inspections to ensure COVID-19 related measures are in place and will be accessing unit/departmental spaces with the assistance of Campus Safety. If you have any questions, please contact <u>EHS JHSC</u>.

Supplemental Checklist during COVID-19

As a reminder, please ensure your unit completes the <u>Supplemental Checklist</u> <u>during COVID-19</u> during your rounds of inspections and forward a copy along with the inspection report to <u>EHS JHSC</u>. Page 2 of 3

Ongoing Reminders

Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Work

Type 3 asbestos abatement air sampling results are available on the Asbestos Date website. For more information, please see <u>Type 3 Asbestos Abatement</u> <u>Information</u>.

Supplemental Inspection Checklist during COVID-19

The <u>Supplemental Inspection Checklist during COVID-19</u> has been updated. Kindly include these items during workplace inspection.

JHSC Newsletter Webpage

For your reference, all previously sent JHSC newsletters can be accessed <u>here</u>.

JHSC Minutes & Inspection Reports

A reminder to send all minutes and inspection reports to <u>ehs.jhsceutoronto.ca</u>.

Health and Safety Boards

EHS is conducting its annual audits of health and safety boards on campuses, and updating/removing applicable items. Please inform EHS when boards have been installed, relocated, or removed. <u>A list of required postings</u> and links for download is available from the EHS webpage.



University of Toronto's General Workplace Guidelines

The University's <u>COVID-19 General Workplace</u> <u>Guidelines</u> (GWG) was sent out to JHSC co-chairs on July 10, 2020. Ongoing updates are made to this document to align with provincial and public health guidelines. While drafting, reviewing and approval of institutional guidelines is an employer responsibility, we encourage the JHSCs to read the document and welcome you to engage with management through your usual channels on any queries or recommendations you may have with respect to the application of the Guideline to worksites within your JHSC's jurisdiction.

You may access the most updated version of the GWG and General Assessment Tool (GAT) on EHS <u>COVID-19 Information</u> webpage. We encourage JHSC members to review and submit any questions or considerations to <u>EHS JHSC</u>.

Important Policies

We encourage the JHSCs to review the following policies regularly: <u>Policy with Respect to Workplace</u> <u>Harassment</u>, <u>Policy with Respect to Workplace</u> <u>Violence</u>, and <u>Health and Safety Policy</u>.



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